

Thomas A. Schatz

President

July 26, 2006

United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

Senators Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) and Barack Obama (D-Ill.) have introduced S. 2590, the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006. This bi-partisan legislation will require the full disclosure of all entities and organizations that receive federal funds. On behalf of the more than 1.2 million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I ask that you support this legislation.

CCAGW has long supported the idea of a database in which citizens and taxpayers could access to see how their money is being spent and used by organizations and companies that receive federal funds. This legislation would direct the Office of Management and Budget to create a searchable database that would include information regarding each entity that receives federal funding, the amount received, how the money is being used, and where the entity is located.

With the widespread use of personal computers and the growth of the Internet, creating such a database is an idea whose time has come. Taxpayers have a right to know where their tax dollars are going. Bringing sunlight into the grant and contracting process will create a more accountable and less wasteful government. Groups from both sides of the political spectrum see the value in S. 2590 and are advocating for its passage.

There is not a moment to lose to make government spending more transparent. CCAGW encourages you to either pass this bill quickly, or at minimum, include language from S. 2590 in each appropriations or authorization bill that comes before you.

Sincerely,

Thomas Schatz